

FRUIT GROWERS' ASSOCIATION

The Annual Meeting of the Fruit Growers' Association was held on Tuesday 6th inst. in the Temperance Hall, Wolfville. The number of members present was not as large as usual, but comprised some of the most noted and influential Fruit Growers in the County.

After a somewhat lengthy address from the President, reviewing the position of Fruit and Fruit Growers, the necessity of foreign markets, and of growing only such sorts as would be suitable for export. That the time had arrived when the list of apples now grown in this and the adjoining counties should be "severely pruned," and only those sorts grown that are reliable and suit the market.

The Secretary was then called upon for his report, which he read, reviewing the work done during the past year. This was quite lengthy, and was well received, and was ordered for publication. The Treasurer's report, as audited, was then read, showing a very healthy state of the finances. The receipts during the year amounting to about \$415, and the expenditure to about \$385, leaving a balance in the Treasurer's hands of \$30. This with a bank deposit of \$150, and notes of hand from responsible parties amounting to \$155.40, other securities and interest accrued to \$11.22, making in available cash assets the sum of \$376.62.

There are a few unpaid liabilities, amounting to say \$20 or \$25, and also the sum of \$30 for prizes on Winter Fruits at the Show to take place in September. The Secretary was ordered to call in all the books belonging to the Association, and make a list and report at the April meeting.

The meeting then proceeded to the election of officers for the ensuing year, with the following results, viz.:

- PRESIDENT—C. C. Hamilton, M. D., Canard.
- VICE PRESIDENTS—For Kings—Edwin Chase, Church Street.
- For Annapolis—Avaré Levy, Esq., M. P., Paradise.
- For Halifax—Geo A S Cohn, Esq., Dartmouth.
- For Hants—Geo Wiggins, Windsor.
- For Digby—Colin Campbell, Weymouth.
- For Yarmouth—Chas E. B. Esq., Yarmouth.
- For Lunenburg—Hon B Desbrisay, Bridgewater.
- For Queens—James Spurr, Liverpool.
- For Colchester—Israel Worth, Esp. Truro.
- For Pictou—David MacE, Esq., Pictou.
- For Cumberland—C. E. Esq., MacE.
- For Cape Breton Island—Eass, Esq., Bonaventure.
- SECRETARY AND TREASURER—R W Starr, Esq., Port Williams.
- COMPOSING SECRETARY—Prof D F Higgins, M. A., Wolfville.
- ADVISORS—A H Johnson, Geo H Wallace, Esq., Wolfville.
- COUNCIL—For Kings—Johnson, Leander, J. A. D., C F Eaton, Jam. Isaac Shaw, John G Byrne, Cr, J W Hamilton, William Sutton, Sec., Chas Y. Johnson, Esq.
- For Annapolis—Ben H H Morse, Robert Marshall, Delas, Jas Horsefall, C B Whitman, Radolph, Esqs; Hon W B Troop, Col M P P.
- For Hants—H V. Esq., Charles Bacon, W H Allison, Esq., Andrew Shaw, W Armstrong, Esq.
- For Halifax—Herb Esq., Hon F C Hill; Col J W LaGeo Lawson.

STANDING COMMITTEES—Fruits—R W Starr, A H Johnson, Avaré Longley, Chas E Brown, C R H Starr.

Publications:—Prof Higgins, A Longley, R W Starr.

Editor—F C Bouché, Esq.

After which the meeting adjourned to Saturday, 10th inst., at the Music Hall, Wolfville, for a show of Winter Fruit.

The Fruit will be received and arranged from 9 a. m. to 1 p. m. Doors open to the public at 2 p. m., close at 5, open at 7, and close at 9, and the small sum of 5 cents will be charged for admission to pay the expenses of Hall, &c.

VALUE OF FODDER CORN.

The experience of the past season has given the writer a highly favorable opinion of fodder corn. A number of cows kept for milk have been steadily fed from July until frost upon fodder corn, with the addition of four quarts of meal daily. The ration has been 90 lbs. in three meals of 30 lbs. each. The first feed was given at 6 o'clock in the morning, cut up in a fodder cutter, wetted with water in which malt sprouts had been steeped for 12 hours, 2 qts. for each cow, and sprinkled with a quart of meal of corn, oats, and wheat-meal, ground together; the second at noon, given whole, and the third at 6 o'clock in the evening, cut as in the morning, but without any malt-sprouts and with 2 qts. of meal, mixed with it after wetting it with water. Upon this feed the cows have kept up their usual flow of milk and in good condition, and have done as well as when fed upon sown with the Albany corn planter in drills 3 feet apart and 3 inches apart in the drill. Five feet of row produces 30 lbs. of fodder, or 2 lbs. to the square foot, or 43 tons to the acre, the corn being about 8 feet high and having a good many half grown ears here and there. One acre of such corn is thus able to support 40 cows 12 days, or 12 cows for 40 days; but this is only when fully grown, as it was when those weights and measures were made. Half of this estimate would be fair, considering that the feeding of the fodder usually begins when a part of the field is only half-grown. It may be gathered from these facts that there can be no more valuable fodder crop grown for late summer and early fall feeding than fodder corn. This experience is corroborated by that of many other dairymen and farmers, but it is worth noting that there is a difference in fodder corn which may well account for the various opinions regarding it. There is that which is sown broadcast and being too much shaded from light, is without color or substance, and makes very poor feed; and that, on the other hand, which having been grown in rows and exposed to the light is more solid and the juices are more mature and perfect. The latter kind is that which satisfies those who use it, and the former is that of which so many complaints have been justly made, and which have given fodder corn a bad reputation with those farmers who rather give heed to what they hear than try experiments for themselves.

EXPENSIVENESS OF ENGLISH PATENTS.—A writer in the London Builder complains that an English patent costs, in government duties, \$125 within the first six months, then \$250 within three years, and \$500 within four more—total, \$875 levied in seven years for a patent during fourteen years; while a patent in America costs only \$35, in one payment, for seventeen years. He finally adds: Thus are the brains of English inventors handicapped against those of their rivals.

COMMANDER CAMERON, of the British navy, says that the Morse system of telegraphy, as far as it depends on the length of the sounds, has long been in use in Africa. He has found tribes that, by stationing drummers at intervals, carry intelligence for miles with great rapidity, the beats of the drum being made in accordance with a previous arrangement of signals.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE SUGAR BEET.

To the Editor of the Farmer's Manual.

MR. EDITOR,—I have been thinking for some time of the practicability of addressing a few words to the farmers of the Annapolis and Cornwallis Valley, and not merely to the farmers of this valley, but to every farmer who may be interested in the subject upon which I propose to write.

With your consent, Mr. Editor, I propose to write a series of articles upon the Sugar Beet, if you will have the kindness to print them in the columns of your paper. I wish to speak of the Sugar Beet in several of its relations to the farmer, as well as concerning its cultivation.

I take it for granted that there is no need of discussing the question, whether the sugar beet can be raised in this valley or not, and not merely raised but grown with profit to the farmer. This question can be answered in the affirmative by many farmers. It is true, that the experience of the past season does not, to many, afford much encouragement, yet I believe it may be safely affirmed that the sugar beet can be raised with profit not only to the farmer, but to all concerned; and just here let us not forget that the past season was very unfavorable for a heavy growth of beets, the cold dry summer was anything but beneficial to the successful growth of the beet—and not only was this the case in our own province, but also upon the continent at large. In France and Germany there exists the same complaint, there the crop is from 15 per cent. to 20 per cent. less than usual. So when we consider every thing, I think we need not be discouraged.

In this first letter I do not intend to enter directly upon the discussion of my subject; but prefer to make this letter an introduction to it.

At the present time there is in this province an organization of farmers which can, if it will, wield an influence which may result in much good. The Grangers will please understand that I am not opposed to their organ-

ization so long as they seek to benefit themselves and the country. But just here I should like to sound a note of warning: Beware whom you admit. Because a man has become a Granger, think not that his nature will be changed. Neither laws nor rules, will change the nature of man. Then too, your organization is for the farmers alone, and to be true to your principle, none but farmers ought to be admitted within the precincts of the Grange. Whether all the principles of the organization are sound is a question which will admit of debate, but so long as the Grangers work for the good of the farmers and our country no one need complain. Many a scheme, if even upon paper only, often looks fair and promises well; but it is the practical working of such to which we must look.

Now it has occurred to me that the Patrons of Husbandry might take in hand this matter of the sugar beet in all its relations. Large quantities of the best seed might be imported, and arrangements made for the erection of a factory, for the manufacture of sugar from the beet. Now, now, I say is the time to attend to this matter. There is no good reason why another season should pass without a factory being erected. Grangers, farmers at large, show yourselves worthy of your calling. Let the ineceptive steps in this matter be taken at once. That such an undertaking would be a paying business no one will doubt after carefully looking into the matter. If the farmer of this valley would guarantee to deliver at some convenient place a sufficient quantity of beets, there is no doubt but that a factory would soon be erected in a convenient locality.

I have understood that parties in Maine have offered, under certain conditions, to erect a factory for the manufacture of sugar from the beet, somewhere within the valley; but, concerning those parties I am unable to say anything certain. In this connection I take the liberty to quote a few words from a letter received a short time since from a gentleman who has identified himself with the best interests of our country, and is an authority upon all matters relating to sugar. I refer to George Gordon Dussan, Esq., of Woodside, Halifax Co., he says: "Yes, the whole trouble is with the Farmers; if I could get them to agree to grow and deliver ten thousand tons of properly grown roots, I could get a factory erected in the valley at once."

Doubtless many of your readers have read Mr. Dussan's letter upon the sugar beet which appeared a short time since in the columns of the "Morning Herald." I am unable at present to place my hand upon the paper containing the letter to which I refer. But through the kindness of Mr. Dussan, I received a pamphlet entitled "Sugar Beet," prepared by E. A. Bernard, Esq., Director of Agriculture for the Province of Quebec. I propose in my letter to quote quite largely from the mentioned pamphlet, as it is a work upon the reliability of which we may safely depend.

C. E. G.  
Cornwallis, N. S., Dec, 18th, 79.